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*H.B. No. 5558 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

*S.B. No. 471 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

To whom it may concern,

As a provider of ABA services within the Autism community, I strongly support expanding the Medicaid Waiver for all people with autism as well as establishing a pilot program that will allow for individuals with the highest level of need, who are difficult to place, to have opportunities to receive a high level of service from a provider who has clinical expertise in providing applied behavior analysis.

Throughout my time as an ABA therapist, I have come to know a number of families who have children who are greatly impacted by their Autism diagnosis. All of these families would benefit greatly from receiving a high level of service from a provider who has clinical expertise in providing applied behavior analysis. For these individuals, ABA services can be the difference between a life of constant dependency versus a life of independence. ABA services and ABA providers can help to teach skills that are important to daily living, including but not limited to bathing, participating in household chores and helping with meal preparation. For all families, these skills and contributions are crucial; however, for a family with an Autistic child, these skills can be life changing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen R. Bevivino